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REMARKSCLAIMS

Claim 9 has been amended by changing its dependency from claim 5 to claim 6 and, last line, by inserting ~~continuously~~ before "inserting", whereby the method of claim 9 includes continuous ejection of punched material from the female rotary die and the male/female rotary die.

Claim 23 has been amended by changing its dependency from claim 20 to claim 22 whereby the angular segment structure of Group V is included with the disc structure of Group VI.

ELECTION/REJECTION

An election is required to one of the following inventions:

- Group I. Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 8 are, drawn to a method of continuously punching an array of closely-spaced holes in a deformable strip in a rotary punch containing a step of continuously ejecting punched material, classified in class 83, subclass 27.
- Group II Claims 9 – 15 are, drawn to a method of continuously punching an array of closely-spaced holes in a deformable strip in a rotary punch containing a plurality of angular segments wherein each segment having at least one ejector pin for radial reciprocal travel, classified in class 83, subclass 23.
- Group III Claim 16 is, drawn to a deformable strip for manufacturing battery plates, classified in class 428, subclass 527.
- Group IV Claim 17 is, drawn to a lead acid battery, classified in class 29, subclass

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Group V Claims 21 – 22 are, drawn to an apparatus having a plurality of angular segments wherein each angular segment having at least one ejector pin for radial reciprocal travel, classified in class 83, subclass 109.

Group VI Claims 23 – 31 are, drawn to an apparatus having a plurality of discs having a plurality of recesses and/or punches, classified in class 83, subclass 343.

Applicants elect with traverse Group I claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 8, it being understood that claims 1 and 5, and claims dependent thereon, will be examined if any of Groups I – II is elected.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend on claim 6, whereby the method of Group II requires a step of continuously ejecting punched material set forth in Group I. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the inventions of Groups I – II are subcombinations usable together in a single combination, are not distinct from each other and should be prosecuted together.

Group III claim 16 relates to a deformable strip having a plurality of longitudinally-spaced traverse rows of punched holes representing up to 90% material removed with a residual wire thickness as thin as 0.010 inch which can be produced only by the method and apparatus of the invention. The product claim 16 of Group III and product claim 17 of Group IV thus can only be made by the process of Groups I – II claims and the process of Groups I – II claims can only make the product of the Groups III – IV claims 16 and 17 and no other materially different product. The products of the Group III and Group IV claims accordingly should be prosecuted with the Groups I – II claims.

Groups I – II inventions and Groups V – VI inventions are related as process and apparatus respectively in which the process can only be practised by an apparatus having a female die, a male/female die, and a male die mounted on the same frame, which are expressly claimed both in the method of claims 1 and 5 (Groups I and II) and in apparatus

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claim 18 (Groups V and VI), and not by hand. The apparatus as claimed cannot be used to practice another and materially different process. The invention of Groups I – II and V – VI accordingly should be prosecuted together.

Groups V – VI inventions and Groups III – IV inventions are related as apparatus and product made by the apparatus in which the apparatus has no utility for making a different product and the specialized product clearly cannot be made by a different apparatus.

The inventions of Groups V – VI now require the apparatus of Group VI include a plurality of angular segments wherein each angular segment has at least one ejector pin for radial reciprocal travel set forth in Group V. The inventions of Groups V – VI accordingly should be prosecuted together.

It is therefore respectfully submitted the Group I, Group II, Group III, Group IV, Group V and Group VI inventions are of interdependent and related subject matter and should be prosecuted together.

Such favourable consideration and examination on merits accordingly are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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